

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wireless communication apparatus,
comprising:

a storage to store a plurality of images;

5 a reception unit configured to receive at least
one image acquisition request transmitted from another
wireless communication apparatus in accordance with
a camera control protocol for exchanging information
relating to images;

10 a selection unit configured to select, in response
to the image acquisition request, one of the plurality
of images stored in the storage; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit at
least one response to the another wireless communica-
15 tion apparatus in accordance with the camera control
protocol, where information relating to the one of the
plurality of images that is selected by the selection
unit is contained in the response.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
20 the selection unit selects the one of the plurality of
images randomly.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the information relating to the one of the plurality of
images that is selected by the selection unit comprises
25 one of information on image contents, information on
processed image contents and information on image
attributes.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission unit transmits a set of responses to the another wireless communication apparatus in response to a series of continuous image acquisition requests from the another wireless communication apparatus, the set of responses containing identical information relating to the one of the plurality of images that is selected by the selection unit.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a timer which starts when a first one of the series of continuous image acquisition requests is received, and

wherein the transmission unit continues to transmit the set of responses unless the timer times out.

6. The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a measurement unit configured to compare a first time with a second time to measure a time difference, the first time being a time at which the reception unit has received a first image acquisition request, and the second time being a time at which the reception unit has received a second image acquisition request following the first image acquisition request, and

wherein the selection unit continues to select the same image as a previous image until a specific time

elapses, when the time difference is not more than a threshold.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

5 a first determination unit configured to determine whether or not the image acquisition request requests identification information on an image; and

 a second determination unit configured to determine whether or not the image has already been
10 selected by the selection unit, and

 wherein if the second determination unit determines that the image has already been selected by the selection unit, the transmission unit transmits the corresponding identification information on the image
15 instead of currently selecting another image and transmitting a current identification information on the image.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

20 a timer which starts when the image acquisition request, requesting the identification information on the image, is received, and

 wherein the transmission unit continues to transmit the corresponding identification information
25 on the image unless the timer time outs.

9. A wireless communication method, comprising:
storing a plurality of images in a storage of

a wireless communication apparatus;

receiving at least one image acquisition request
transmitted from another wireless communication
apparatus in accordance with a camera control protocol
5 for exchanging information relating to images;

selecting, in response to the image acquisition
request, one of the plurality of images stored in the
storage; and

transmitting at least one response to the another
10 wireless communication apparatus in accordance with the
camera control protocol, where information relating to
the one of the plurality of images is contained in the
response.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the
15 one of the plurality of images is selected randomly
from the plurality of images.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the
information relating to the one of the plurality of
images comprises one of information on image contents,
20 information on processed image contents, and
information on image attributes.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the
transmitting includes transmitting a set of responses
that contain identical information relating to the one
25 of the plurality of images to the another wireless
communication apparatus, in response to a series of
continuous image acquisition requests from the another

wireless communication apparatus.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

5 starting a timer when a first one of the series of continuous image acquisition requests is received, and continuing to transmit the set of responses unless the timer time outs.

14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising comparing a time at which a first image acquisition request has received with a time at which a second image acquisition request has received following the first image acquisition request in order to measure a time difference, and

15 wherein the selecting the one of the plurality of images includes selecting the same image as a previous image until a specific time elapses, when the time difference is not more than a threshold.

15. The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

20 determining whether or not the image acquisition request requests identification information on an image; and

determining whether or not the image has already been selected, and

25 wherein if the image has already been selected, then:

transmitting the corresponding identification

information on the image instead of currently selecting another image and transmitting a current identification information on the image.

5 16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

starting a timer when the image acquisition request, requesting the identification information on the image, is received, and

10 continuing to transmit the corresponding identification information on the image unless the timer time outs.

17. A computer program stored in a computer readable medium, the program comprising:

15 means for instructing a computer to store a plurality of images in a storage of a wireless communication apparatus;

20 means for instructing the computer to receive an image acquisition request transmitted from another wireless communication apparatus in accordance with a camera control protocol for exchanging information relating to images;

means for instructing the computer to select, in response to the image acquisition request, one of the plurality of images stored in the storage; and

25 means for instructing the computer to transmit a response to the another wireless communication apparatus in accordance with the camera control

protocol, where information relating to the one of the plurality of images is contained in the response.

18. The program according to claim 17, wherein the one of the plurality of images is selected randomly
5 from the plurality of images.

19. The program according to claim 17, wherein the information relating to the one of the plurality of images comprises one of information on image contents, information on processed image contents, and
10 information on image attributes.

20. The program according to claim 17, wherein a set of responses that contain identical information relating to the one of the plurality of images is transmit to the another wireless communication
15 apparatus, in response to a series of continuous image acquisition requests.

21. The program according to claim 20, further comprising:

means for instructing the computer to start
20 a timer when a first one of the series of continuous image acquisition requests is received, and

means for instructing the computer to continue to transmit the set of responses unless the timer time outs.

22. The program according to claim 20, further comprising means for instructing the computer to compare a time at which a first image acquisition
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request has received with a time at which a second image acquisition request has received following the first image acquisition request in order to measure a time difference, and

5 wherein the same image as a previous image is selected until a specific time elapses, when the time difference is not more than a threshold.

23. The program according to claim 17, further comprising:

10 means for instructing the computer to determine whether or not the image acquisition request requests identification information on an image;

 means for instructing the computer to determine whether or not the image has already been selected; and

15 means for instructing the computer to transmit the corresponding identification information on the image if the image has already been selected, instead of currently selecting another image and transmitting a current identification information on the image.

20 24. The program according to claim 17, further comprising:

 means for instructing the computer to start a timer when the image acquisition request, requesting the identification information on the image, is
25 received, and

 means for instructing the computer to continue to transmit the corresponding identification information

on the image unless the timer time outs.